

# U. F. C. BULLETIN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF UNITED FARMERS OF CANADA (ALBERTA SECTION)

VOL. I.

AUGUST, 1941.

No. 2.

## *Let's All Get Together*

When we have the farmers throughout Canada united  
We will never cease to persevere until our wrongs are righted,  
And when we get a just price for the things we buy and sell  
Every other trade will prosper and all things will be well.

So lets all get together and join the U. F. C.,  
Then good times for farmers you very soon will see,  
Every other industry will also get its share  
'Cause if the farmers prosper, there's good times everywhere.

The good times soon are coming, so the prophets say  
When equitable prices and fair dealing will hold sway  
We'll recline beneath the fig tree and get younger every day  
And Debt and Mortgage companies will forever pass away.

H. E. NICHOLS.

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## :- AIMS AND OBJECTIVE OF BULLETIN :-

This is our second appearance and we wish to stress once again the main object which we have in view. This is not going to be a newspaper, you can get plenty of those already and there is a wide variety for you to choose from so that you can get the one that suits you best. This Bulletin just aims to be a kind of farmers handbook to keep him in touch with the activities of his Union, to bring him authentic news of what other locals as well as his own are doing, and above all to arouse interest in all those economic factors which so vitally affect the farmer. We know how busy a farmer has to be in order to make things GO on the farm. You do not have time to do a lot of reading at the busy seasons of the year and yet you do not, or should not, want to be out of touch with the aims and objectives of an association whose one object is the Economic Emancipation of the farmer. We want to see the occupation of farming raised from the Slough of Despond in which it is now, to that of a dignified business that affords a good living and sufficient leisure, to those who are efficient, so that it has an appeal to offer to the rising generation.

We want to see the time pass away when the boys and girls turn away from the farm in disgust because it has no future to offer them.

In order to do this we must see to it that the farmer obtains a Parity Price for his products in comparison with the things he has to buy.

Do not be side-tracked. The first principle of successful business is to estimate correctly the cost of the product you are going to handle, add all overhead and service charges, and then

sell at a price that includes all these. Does the farmer do this? Is he able to do this? Not at present. But is there any reason why he should not be able to do these things? Other industrial groups have accomplished most of these objectives. As a matter of fact the farmer is about the only one that has NOT. Is it because his product is not wanted or of less value than others? No, it is simply because he is the most efficient producer on the face of the Earth at the present time and he is not organized to feed the Market according to the ability of the market to absorb his goods. This is what all other organizations do and in doing so they have one objective in view and that is to obtain a satisfactory- PRICE for their product.

Farmer, go and do thou likewise. If you do this, you will lay the foundation for a happier and more healthy existence for yourself and your family on the farm for this generation and offer a desirable future for the generation to come. The only way that apparently lies open to you to do this is to become a member of a Union, that will eventually take under its wings all the farmers of Canada and by co-operative effort raise the position of Agriculture from the Slough of Despond into which it has fallen on to the Highway of Prosperity, where it deserves to be.

If you do not take this co-operative way the only alternative is for you to be the "Hewer of wood and Drawer of Water" in the future as you have been in the past. The "HELLOT" of civilization. Look in the dictionary and see what this word means if you do not know.

This is the reason, then, for this little handbook coming into

your homes. To get you to think on those things, to discuss them with your family to, speak about them to your neighbour over the fence, to talk about them in the store and to pass resolutions and commence to DO something about them in your local group so that the WORLD may know that the farmer realises his position and is going to do something about it!

Remember, a prosperous farmer makes the whole world rich.

### A SPECIAL APPEAL TO ALL MEMBERS

The U.F.C. BULLETIN is the official organ of the United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section). It is the mouthpiece of every local and every member within the local. As such, it renders invaluable service for the cause of the U.F.C. It has a definite place in the organization's set-up, which cannot be supplanted in any other way.

After experiencing almost three years of organizational effort without the assistance of a monthly publication the U. F. C. Executive is fully aware of its need.

These first two editions have been financed almost wholly from the executive's coffers. It cannot continue to do so much longer. For a regular continuation of this publication, it depends upon active and immediate response to subscribing to this, your own paper. The rate is fifty cents per year or a quarter for six months. Your Local secretary will by now have received a subscription book, and your co-operation through your secretary, at once, will enable the Central Office to continue publication.

# Resolutions Dealing with Farm Problems



## RESOLUTION No. 1.

Some people upon reading this resolution for the first time might think that such a demand was unreasonable and that the farmers did not think of anybody but themselves and did not care about the high price of bread to the consumer.

But let us see!

In the first place farming is a highly competitive business and the farmers are the most efficient producers in the world. Under the stress of severe competition and short cuts to efficiency the price of wheat (and all other grain) has been reduced to such a point that it takes a most efficient farmer to barely get by.

Not only is there no profit in wheat at the price which it has averaged for the last ten years; but there is not even wages in it as all farmers know. Leaving aside the question for the moment as to how the farmer can continue to exist and produce if he is not making anything, which question can be answered very fully and logically at the right time, we wish to find out at the present time just who gets the most benefit from this cheap wheat which the farmer has to sell. Is it the retail flour buyer and consumer or is it the buyer and consumer of bread?

No. 1. flour is supposed to be made of No. 1. hard red, Manitoba Spring Wheat, at least that is what it says on the sacks. As a matter of fact, the mixture that goes to make a No. 1. flour (according to a statement made at a Wheat Pool convention some years ago and which has never been contradicted) is somewhat like this—5% of No. 1, 35% of No. 2, 30% of No. 3, 25% of No. 4, and 5% of sprouted wheat. Total 100%.

There is quite a difference in the PRICE of these grades to the farmer but when blended they make a No. 1. flour.

Now for the last six months the average price of these grades would be about 50 cents per bushel or less. Let us see how much a hundred of No. 1 flour should actually cost.

5 bushels of wheat (300 lbs.) at 50 cents per bus. \$2.50  
300 lbs of wheat makes 200 lbs flour and 100 lbs shorts and bran.  
The 100 lbs shorts and bran more than pays for all costs in milling the wheat.

Therefore 200 lbs flour costs ..... \$2.50...

Therefore 100 lbs flour costs ..... \$1.25

But 100 lbs of 1st grade retails at ..... \$3.40

Profit \$2.15

This makes bad enough reading for the farmer,—and the consumer; but it does not get any better as we go along.

100 lbs flour makes (approximately) 100, 20 oz loaves of bread. But retail price of 100 lbs. of bread ..... \$9.00

With flour at cost of production (including fair costs, i.e. \$1.25 per 100), the actual cost of 100 lbs. of bread without labour would be about 1½ cents per loaf. And the consumer pays 9 or 10 cents!

If wheat were \$1.25 per bushel which is what this resolution asks for, the cost would be as follows:

5 bushels of wheat at \$1.25 ..... \$6.25

300 lbs wheat is worth \$6.25; but bran and shorts pays milling.

Therefore 200 lbs of flour should sell to baker for \$6.25 or per hundred for ..... \$3.12½

100 lbs flour makes 100, 20 oz loaves plus salt, water etc. Therefore bare costs of 100 loaves each ..... 3½c.

This of course would be if everybody else worked for the same wages as the farmer; but to this we must add labour, fuel, wrapper and delivery and by the way delivery alone in Edmonton costs over 2 cents per loaf.

We thus find that the miller and the baker between them get at least 70 per cent of the consumer's dollar, which is too much.

Wheat could be \$1.25 per bushel and the consumer should not have to pay a cent more for bread.

As one baker put it. The cost of wheat has hardly any bearing on the price of bread. If this is so, then the farmer might just as well be paid a good price for his wheat and we could all be happy together.

Before the war the people in London, England, bought their bread for less than the people of Alberta after giving the wheat from which it is made a ride for 5,000 miles. Yes, our wheat is the wheat that makes their bread, grown right here in your district, yet you pay more for the finished product than they. Therefore it is not the Canadian farmer who is getting the benefit of the high prices you pay and you are not getting any benefit because the Canadian farmer sells his wheat for less than the cost of production. He is going broke and you are being held up. What are you going to do about it. Together, we should be able to do something effective.

The news came over the radio this morning that the price of bread in Vancouver is to be

raised from 8 to 9 cents for a 16 oz loaf because the cost of production is going up. Ye Gods! The price of wheat to the farmer drops 16 cents per bushel on August 1st, — so it does look after all as if the price of wheat had nothing at all to do with the price of bread! Funny. We always thought bread was made from wheat!

### And now comes the Final Blow

It has just been announced that the Government has lifted the processing tax of 15 cents per bushel because of the protests of the millers and bakers that it was too hard on them.

The proceeds of this tax some \$5,000,000 was to be used for the benefit of Agriculture and without consulting the farmers it has been taken off. This calls for concerted action on the part of the farming organizations, and the following telegram has been sent to the Hon. J. A. McKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa:

"The United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section), do protest most emphatically against the lifting of the processing tax on wheat. This is a direct action against the welfare of the farmer, whose interests are being sacrificed for the miller and baker, whose prices are already too high in comparison with the price of wheat.

"This processing tax should be re-imposed and even raised and the resulting revenue used to bonus the farmer by adding it pro-rata to the first 1000 bushels which each individual farmer markets."

We hope this resolution will be endorsed by the U.F.A. and then by the Alberta Federation of Agriculture and through them by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, who will present it vigorously at Ottawa.

Only in this manner shall we get the farmers RIGHTS recognised.

### RESOLUTION No. 2.

In view of the fact that we are engaged in a war for our very existence and that Canada is calling upon her able-bodied men to sacrifice their lives, and also urging the rest of us to subscribe to War Bonds to the utmost limit of our ability;

THEREFORE, in order to carry out as far as possible that equality of service about which we have heard so much from government sources, we, the United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section), in convention assembled request that, for the duration of the war at least, all salaries in excess of \$3,500 per year for a single man and \$5,000 per year for a married man, shall be taxed 100%, and all profits resulting from business shall be subject to a 100% tax, based on the capital which was invested at the commencement of the war.

Here is another Resolution that looks rather severe at first; but when you get down to business you will find that the individual affected by it still has the laugh over our sailors, soldiers, airmen and farmers by about 200 or 300 per cent. The Country takes one man for foreign service and offers him the chance of being injured, killed or being returned much the worse for wear. The other has the chance of living in comfort and making good wages with a more secure job (at least while the war is on). There is no doubt who, has the long end of the deal and the Dominion Government should lose no time in bringing this about and—cutting their own salaries accordingly. This is certainly not too much to ask. The big majority of our people never dream of getting a salary such as this resolution would allow; or if they do, it is not long before they wake up and find it was only a dream.

With regard to the tax on business, any fair minded man ought to be content with draw-

ing a good salary at the present time without wanting extra profits from his business on top. Especially when, in many cases, the government is equipping factories with up-to-date machinery out of public money so that the extra capital invested is not the risk of the owner of the factory and therefore he should not look for any returns from it.

### RESOLUTION No. 3

WE, the United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section) hereby petition the Provincial Government to institute at the next session of the legislature a compulsory farm organization scheme (similar to the Teachers Association and Brotherhood of Railway Workers), whereby one tenth of one per cent of all proceeds from the sale of all grains and livestock, at time of selling (similar to the methods of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act) be deposited in a farmers organization for bona-fide farmers only; such fund to be used for the purpose of financing a central office similar to that possessed by all other trade unions, whose object shall be the welfare of the farmers.

Until such time comes when perfect justice is done on the Earth, there is no doubt that "God helps those who help themselves". Some industries are much easier to organize than others owing to their being consolidated; but this should not prevent the organization of farmers just because, by the very nature of their industry, they have to be spread far apart. However, it takes money to organize even closely associated industrial units and for the farmers it takes a lot more. However, if the farmer is willing to be taxed for it out of his own produce the Government should be willing to provide the legislative machinery to accomplish this and if they are willing to do so, it is up to you

farmers to join your Union so as to authorize your government to recognize your Union as the trustee of these funds and you, through your membership, will say in what manner you wish your Union to act so that it shall be of the greatest possible benefit to you. In order for the government to agree to do this at least 50% of the farmers of Alberta must belong to their Union. Is this too much? It means 50,000 members in the Farmers Union.

The amount of the deduction we are asking for i. e. one tenth of 1%, would mean about 2 cents per hog at present prices or about 7 cents off the total price of a good fat cow which sells for \$70.00. And from a load of 100 bushels of wheat selling for \$50.00, the tax would be about 5 cents. Is it worth that much to you, in order to have some say in the ultimate conduct of your own affairs?

It is a sure thing the Dominion government pays no attention to the voice of the individual farmers, no matter how hard he squeals; but you put your voice in a mighty choir with 49,999 other farmers and even if the results are not exactly melodious, the Dominion Government will sit up pretty suddenly and **take notice**, partly perhaps because the noise would not be so melodious as they would like.

Under this present order of things governments only take notice of those organizations who **COMMAND** their attention by the economic pressure they can bring to bear or the number of votes under their control. In regards to economic pressure, the farmers are the strongest, single economic unit in existence and if they are willing to act as a single unit, can exert more pressure than any other single Union. While as regards voting strength in the rural districts of the West the farmers can put in any member they have a mind to who will support their

claims for equal treatment to Agriculture. Thus without being in politics they can control political action and if they support their Union they can control economic action as it effects their own industry.

#### RESOLUTION No. 4.

That we ask the Dominion Government to advance up to 60% of the value of all grain stored on farms and to pay storage at the same rate as is paid to all the grain storage companies.

#### Explanation of Resolution No. 4

It is a peculiar thing that as soon as it was proposed to pay the farmer for storing his grain on the farm because there was no storage available elsewhere at the time, that the storage allowance was reduced from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cent per bushel per month to  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per bushel per month. For a great number of years the storage charges had been 1 cent per bushel per month; but apparently this was too much to allow the farmer and so the storage allowance was reduced.

In the opinion of good many reliable people, the farm is the right place to store most of our surplus grain. There are many arguments in its favour as well as a few against. It would insure the farmer against overselling and consequently running short and after all he would only get paid for what he did haul out. This would work in favour of the maximum consumption of grain on the farm, where it should be consumed as much as possible. It would also operate strongly in favour of building adequate storage facilities on the farm which would have a strong influence in favour of permanency on the farm.

If Production is Wealth, and everyone seems to concede that it is, then there can be no argument against making a financial advance up to 60% of the value of grain stored in the bin.

The farmer cannot feed and cloth himself and family with the actual grain and if the commercial channels through which he ordinarily moves it are temporarily closed, then he is entitled to the financial advance just the same as all other business who are accommodated in this way.

## Is It Wise To Wait?

In making the regular rounds connected with organizational work, the organizer is confronted with opinions of every shape form and variety. One of the most common opinions expressed seems to be the least logical.

The war situation has brought many farmers to the conclusion that irregardless of the final outcome, there is bound to be a severe shake-up in the whole financial structure and thus a new Utopia will emerge. Their opinion in regard to organizing is that all such work should be left till this time arrives. It then could be done under the new scheme of things.

What will actually happen to the economic set-up after the war is something nobody on earth can answer. But assuming that there will be some degree of change, would it not be ever so much wiser on the part of the farmer to organize now and thus be prepared to take his place along side all other groups in other occupations, to see that he gets his fair share of recognition?

Whatever happens after the war is won, whether the change be marked or slight, it appears that the only logical course to follow is a rapid expansion of the U.F.C. (Alberta Section), to make it sufficiently strong to speak at least for the majority of the farmers in this province at as early a date as possible.



# FARMERS MUST DO THE JOB THEMSELVES

Agriculture is the basis of all civilization. This fact is attested by the experiences of human history. The wealth of a nation, the character of its people, the quality and permanence of its institutions, are all dependent upon a sound and sufficient agricultural foundation.

Almost every intelligent person will admit the truth of the above assertion. But society has so organized itself that the farmers have been forced into a position of economic helplessness. This is particularly true of conditions in Canada where, the farm population, comprising approximately one-third of the total, receives only about 11 per cent of the national income.

Experience has shown that no one will help the farmers. Everyone will agree in theory that agriculture must be maintained, but in actual practice sufficient substantial help is simply not forthcoming.

The only solution is for the farmers to do the job themselves. With their numbers and economic importance they can do it if they will only unite. The biggest barrier to overcome is that "if".

The co-operative movement offers a natural rallying ground for farmers. If the farmers of Alberta had control of the bulk of their selling and buying, not only would price spreads be narrowed and economies provided, but they would be a dominant economic power in the province. Farmers in other provinces would hasten to follow the example and the nation would soon be compelled to recognize that a new force had come into being, that of the farmers organized in a business way—and one that meant business. At the present time not only is the western farmer and his family working for nothing, but he is con-

tributing the fertility of his soil. Wheat at a net price of around 50c. a bushel is a disgrace, but the farmers have to take it and like it because they will not unite. Divided by schisms and petty disagreements, they are like a bunch of hunting dogs chasing after every jack-rabbit that crosses their path instead of following the main quarry.

The farmers inability to achieve solidarity makes him an easy prey to speculators and controlled markets, and the butt of business interests. A recent incident will illustrate this statement. Because United States buyers were picking up hogs in Alberta the price rose a couple of cents a pound. The Canadian government then negotiated an agreement with the United States government preventing further exports of Canadian pork to that country. When farmers made a mild protest a leading western daily newspaper gave them an editorial scolding and remarked: "There are more hogs around than the four-footed ones". But when organized labor demands and gets substantial increases of pay, up to, in some cases, around \$1.50 an hour for expert workmen, no newspaper dare characterize them as hogs.

Every great war in the world's history has been followed by an economic collapse. There may be a time lag of a year or two after the war ends, but that collapse is sure to come. Agriculture is making no profit during these war years, a contrary experience to virtually every other class in the national life. Nevertheless, agriculture will be the first to suffer when the collapse does come.

The only possible way for farmers to achieve any degree of relief is to organize. Large

and efficient cooperatives should be set up to handle the bulk of the farmers' business, and strong centralized educational institutions provided to keep the farmers informed concerning their own business and the value of organization.

Those co-operative organizations now in existence are continually faced with a subterranean campaign to wean away farmers and destroy their effectiveness. The Wheat Pool, for instance, is a continual target for the most insidious attacks. Right now the grain trade is pushing a well organized campaign to persuade the federal government to tax the Wheat Pools so that the excess earnings will go into the federal treasury rather than to the farmers to whom they belong.

But this is merely one type of attack. Dozens of other methods are in constant use seeking to undermine the most successful farmers' co-operative this province has ever known.

The rallying cry should now be "Farmers Awake!" Shake off the lethargy that is keeping agriculture a "bound giant" and put on your fighting clothes.

Build up your co-operatives and don't be lured away by tempting little two-bit baits.

Alberta Pool Elevators.

## OUR VIEWPOINT

With regard to the hog embargo we do not wish to be misunderstood. We are willing, nay anxious, to supply Great Britain with all the bacon she needs and of the type she wants; but for the heavier type of hog which we mentioned and which Britain does NOT want, the producer should still be permitted to use the only avenue which offers a remunerative market, and that is South of the Border in the United States.

## U. F. C. Bulletin

Published monthly by United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section) at the Central Office,  
12119 — 95th Street  
Edmonton, Alta.

Subscription 50 cents per year.

Address:

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### BASELESS FEARS

Possibly the chief stumbling block in the path of rapid expansion of the U.F.C. movement in Alberta is the fear, in the minds of many a sympathiser and prospective member, of eventual participation of the organization in politics.

This organization has benefited by the mistakes made in that regard by the United Farmers of Alberta. As a result, the constitution of the U.F.C. makes it doubly impossible for ever permitting such action. In the first place, the U. F. C. Alberta Section, is an organization under charter as a strictly non-political organization. Its aims and objectives are strictly economical with the sole purpose of bettering the living conditions of the farmer.

Secondly, resident farmers only can be members of this organization. This is by far its strongest asset. There is no fear of its policies ever swaying from its fundamental objective stated above. This provision alone makes it impossible for anyone but resident farmers to be leaders of the organization. Your president and all other members of the executive are resident farmers like yourselves. They have to attend to the daily routine of farm work like all farmers. Any time devoted to executive or organizational work is done at a great sacrifice to

their own personal progress at home. It is impossible to imagine any of these gentlemen or their successors ever being able to devote sufficient time to be government leaders. That is a physical impossibility.

These two phases of the U.F.C. Manifesto should place beyond a shadow of a doubt any fear that a repetition of the action taken by the former farmers' organization, could possibly occur.

### SEED MUST BE SOWN FIRST

We sow seeds each spring. We hope for a harvest each fall. But sometimes the seeds fall on barren soil. Sometimes there is no rainfall. Sometimes a plague of grasshoppers destroys the crop leaving nothing for harvest. Sometimes, just when all seems well and results appear assured a hailstorm destroys all.

Your U. F. C. is at work every day, sowing seeds of education. Sometimes they fall on barren soil, shrivel and die.

Sometimes they start to sprout, then the drouth of neglect or ignorance strikes them and they wither and die.

Sometimes they grow and thrive, then the plague of lies and slander strikes then like grasshoppers or hail and they are destroyed.

Seeds sown long ago are brought to harvest now in the lively interest being shown among the many locals and individuals from all parts of the province.

Sowing the seeds of education is an expensive business. Funds for this work are derived from one source only. That source is your membership fee. Help sow the seeds and derive the benefits of a bountiful harvest in the way of a larger and stronger organization, by joining the U.F.C. Local in your vicinity immediately. Only successive membership, year in and year out, can achieve this end. Do your part for your own good.

### U.F.C. WATCHFUL OF WELFARE OF PRODUCERS

We should like to point out in very definite manner why it is necessary for the farmers to have an organization that is continually on the lookout for their welfare, and also that is trying to co-ordinate the efforts of your different co-operative organizations.

Acting in conjunction with both the Edmonton District, and Alberta Livestock Co-operative we brought the matter of the hog embargo to the attention of the Minister at Ottawa. Much to our surprise a wire was received in reply from the Deputy Minister, Mr. H. Barton, saying that there had been **no decrease** in the price of sows or heavies in the last month. This is quite contrary to the facts, as there was a drop of from 50 cents to \$1.50 per hundred on these grades during the month of July.

Mr. Barton was notified of this but so far no reply has been received. This shows that those in control very often do not bother to find out the facts and if no check was kept on them the interests of the farmer would be completely overlooked.

If your Union and Shipping Co-operatives had not been on the job this thing would have been put over and the farmers would have lost tens of thousands of dollars. Even if individual farmers had sent in protests they would not have been listened to but when several organizations with a large membership send in a protest their voice is heard.

Result, these cuts have been practically wiped out. If our Union had twenty times as many members in it we would be able to accomplish twenty times as much. And note, it is not only the farmers who are in these different co-operative organizations who benefit, but those who are not members benefit equally. In most cases the unorganiz-



ed farmer would not even put in a protest when business of farming does not get fair treatment from the government but even if he did, he would not be heard. A single voice does not carry far; but a mighty CHORUS can be heard a long way. Even from the West to the East.

We will leave it at that with one last reminder to the non-member that by staying out of his Union, he is making it harder for his neighbour and also for himself.

### EDUCATION — THE BASE OF U.F.C. SET-UP.

Education is the basic principal around which the whole set-up of the United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section) revolves, and your own local is the place where the farmers educate themselves for effective organization. What have we to learn?

A farmer must know the problems of marketing his products.

He should understand something about finance and the laws affecting his life and industry.

He must understand co-operative principles.

He must know something about the U.F.C. to make the best possible use of the services it provides and to suggest ways and means of improving these services.

He must understand something of the problems of all farmers and workers so they can meet their common problems on a common ground.

He must know something of the world happenings because sooner or later they touch his life.

He must understand the forces of propaganda at work in the newspapers, radio and other means so he will not be misled by schemes to sidetrack and destroy his plans for building a better world for himself, his family and his fellow men.

### ARE WE NOT TO BLAME?

The Ministries of Agriculture, both provincial and federal, have time and again, been condemned for failing to carry out certain policies which would no doubt be most beneficial to the common farmer. The men at the head have seldom, if ever, proven popular. Such is not so often the case with ministers of mines, railways, and education.

What then seems to be the matter. Briefly it is just this. Any demands brought to the attention of the minister of labour, or railways, or mines or education, are demands representing the wishes of practically all the labourers, the teachers, or the railwaymen. Such a demand carries terrific weight and when placed in the hands of the respective minister, he is well equipped and strongly enough fortified to convince his colleagues and other authorities that such a demand is legitimate and therefore essential.

Such, unfortunately, is not the happy position of our Ministers of Agriculture, provincial or federal. Sympathetic as they may be towards the plight of the farmer, and anxious as they may be to do something about it, they are fairly well stranded with their hands tied firmly behind their backs, simply because the farmer is unorganized. Any demands that he may put forth are not representative of 100%, or even 50%, not even 5% of the farmers of our province or of the West or of the Dominion as the case may be. What earthly chance has he then of convincing the powers above him that such demands are legitimate and essential? His chances are very slight indeed, simply because we, the farmers, have, through failure to organize into a strong non-political union, not been able to place a powerful weapon into our elected representative's hand. That weapon can be shaped and sharpened only through the medium of a

strictly non-political farmers union, organized for the mutual benefits of all farmers irregardless of their politics, nationality or religion. The United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section) is that organization.

### HEAD OFFICE TRANSFERRED TO EDMONTON

The U.F.C. executive has deemed it advisable to transfer its headquarters to Edmonton. Expanding membership on all sides has made Edmonton a more convenient point for the execution of the organization's business.

It is located temporarily at the home of the new Secretary, H. E. Nichols, at 12119 — 95th Street. Box 275. This is merely a temporary arrangements till a suitable place is located down town.

No amount of praise is due the retiring secretary R. H. Boutillier of Willingdon. In spite of the ever increasingly heavy burden "Bob" bore as secretary of Eagle Municipality, he volunteered to carry on as U.F.C. secretary at practically no remuneration for his services. As membership increased, the work increased in proportion, till it alone was sufficient to warrant a full time secretary.

The organization is indeed fortunate in acquiring the services of Mr. H. E. Nichols who, like Mr. Boutillier, has the organization at heart and is therefore doing three times the work that the small remuneration would ordinarily call for.

It is that type of spirit that inspires the executive to carry on in spite of many obstacles, and it is that type of spirit that will eventually win out.

Hats off to the retiring secretary for his efforts against almost insurmountable odds and to the incoming secretary for his willingness to carry on for the sake of the U.F.C.



# *The University In Your Kitchen*



By The Barn-yard Philosopher  
MORINVILLE

## **The Situation.**

Twenty years ago if a young man had no qualification for any kind of work, his parents merely said, "the only thing to do with Elmer is to make a farmer of him". But to-day the farming business has become one of the most scientific and progressive professions in existence. To be a good farmer nowadays a man needs a general knowledge of scientific agriculture, of chemistry, of the veterinary art, of machinery, of book-keeping, of co-operation, both social and economic, of the intricacies of finance and the problems involved in selling and buying, that is, to be a successful farmer. And it is apparent that the business of farming will in the near future involve a still greater need for sound education as the problems grow.

## **Are We Interested?**

Now, let us be frank with ourselves, what do we know about our farm, what interest does the average farmer take in the selling of his products? What use does he make of scientific agriculture, of the great discoveries of recent years which are intended to make his task easier and more productive? **It is a sad fact that we are not interested in the problems that interest us.** And yet those problems are vitally present, threatening our very lives clamouring for a prompt and efficient solution. Who will find that solution? Who will solve the problem of wheat, the problem of machinery, who will bring light to bear upon the question of farm financing? Who will make you, the biggest producer in the world, some day control your own market? The government? But for years it has pub-

lished pamphlets which very few farmers ever read. Agricultural experts? But they have been showing us the way and who has ever troubled to listen to them?

## **Who Will Solve Our Problems?**

Who? I ask and repeat, will solve our problems? The time is past of direction from above, the light, the interest, the solution must come and can come only from below. And the only answer, the only hope, the only ray left in our troubled sky, is the **Organized, Educated Farmer.**

## **Education.**

People have often said that life begins at forty, it wouldn't be quite true to say that education begins at twenty but it is certain that education does not end there! But of what kind of education do we speak? Is it the dream of the author of this article to see grizzled and matured men and women (and I insist upon the weaker sex's importance in this matter) tripping the light fantastic back to school? Far be it from me to incite anyone to such action. By education, we mean a **practical knowledge of the things which form our daily task.** Not an education necessarily coming from books, but more the kind that is reaped in discussions, in investigations made in our own community, in the study of local problems.

My invitation to you is to attend the college of life. Now it is our definite and assured conviction, born from experience, that the best means by which this education can be gained is through the **Study Club.**

## **The Study Club, How It Works**

The study club is a society made of men and women who meet regularly to discuss and to solve their own problems. In practice let us attend a study club meeting.

In the farm kitchen of farmer Bill, ten or twelve people are seated together around a large table. There are pamphlets and papers lying around; there is smoke in the air and a feeling of coziness, of conviviality, of mutual friendship and understanding. Some time ago Farmer Bill read an article in the U. F. C. BULLETIN upon the necessity of education. He talked the matter over with his neighbours and they all felt that something should be done to better their condition. What that something was, nobody, it seemed, knew. They decided to find out for themselves.

One night they met at farmer Joe's, all the neighbours were there. Joe read them a pamphlet which he had secured from the Extension Department of the University of Alberta called "The Study Club Way of Adult Education". They were all interested. He told them that the study club brings the University to those who could not attend university, he told them about the leader's and member's duties and he selected a list of topics which they could profitably discuss.

And so it was that then and there they formed their own club. Bill was selected leader because he always knew how to keep the ball rolling and interest high. Joe was made secretary and told to write to the U.F.C. Central and to the Extension Department of the Uni-

versity of Alberta for more pamphlets on study club organization and on co-operation. They all chipped in a quarter for that purpose.

They meet regularly at 8.30 sharp on Tuesday nights (or any other night) for one hour and a half from November to the end of April. They feel that something worth while is being accomplished.

#### What to Study.

For the first month or so they studied Joe's pamphlet on study club organization so as to get off on the right foot. After that they launched deep into H. H. Hannam's pamphlet on co-operation which they had received from their U. F. C. central office. Realising that the study club educates for action, they looked around in their own community to see what action should be taken. They took one problem, studied it carefully, spread education by forming other clubs in the district and they decided to solve that problem according to co-operative lines of action. They now have a credit union, or a store, or a Dairy Pool local, or a livestock co-operative association, or all these, — and they hope to start something else soon. But all these organizations have been launched only when a sufficient number of members in the community had attended study clubs.

#### Results

And now, after two, or three, or four years of co-operative study, now that they can look back on the work done, they thank God for the day when they first met, "way back when" in Joe's kitchen, their outlook on life has been so utterly changed. They have ceased to live as cramped egotists and discovered that the solution to their problems lies in the inspiring bonds of the friendships formed around the study club table. They have no grudge (or kick) against the government

or big companies, because they realise that self help, initiative and mutual help are the foundation stones of the new movement which they and similar groups are pioneering in the West.

As a matter of fact they have

started to live again. They are interested in co-operation, in farm problems, and, what is of the utmost importance to the success of every community, they are deeply interested in one another. They have become fast friends.

## Progress of Alberta Co-op. Wholesale Ass'n

The Alberta Co-operative Wholesale Association went into business a little over three years ago, starting then with nine stores — today they have 72 units in the province from Medicine Hat in the south to Dawson Creek on the B.C. boundary.

The Alberta Co-operative Wholesale is set up on the Rochdale principles — owned by the Unit Stores. The Alberta Co-operative Wholesale is linked up with Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia Co-operative Wholesales and recently obtained an Interprovincial Dominion Co-operative Charter. The wholesales are also linked up with the National Co-operatives Limited of the United States through the Interprovincial affiliation. The charter is wide

enough that any other province in the Dominion can link up and consolidate their efforts with the four western provinces.

This is the strength that has been put in to the peoples hands in the short space of three years.

The four provinces are consolidating their buying power on certain products, now known as Co-op products. These will be enlarged on as time goes on and further consolidation is made. That is the strength — the people have in their own hands today through the Interprovincial Co-operative Wholesales Limited — all that is necessary is to utilize the power which is available now. Build your own economy by building up your own Business.

## GET IT FROM U.F.C. BULLETIN

The Only Farmers Union Paper in Alberta

This Form is for Your Convenience — Mail It Today

U.F.C. BULLETIN,  
Box 275, Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find 50 cents for one year (25c for six months) Subscription to the U.F.C. Bulletin.

NAME (Print) .....

ADDRESS .....

## On U.F.C. Organizational Front

Our assistant organizer, Mr. T. A. Shandro has been very active during the last few weeks and a result of his activities a good many new memberships have been coming in.

We are glad to report the following new locals formed together with the name of the President and Secretary.

Glidehurst, No. 197. — A. Borys, President, R. R. 3, Leduc, Wm. Manchak, Secretary, Calmar.

West Union, No. 198 — R. Borchert, President, Leduc; R. Steinke, Secretary, Leduc.

Dahlgren, No. 199 — Ed. Jahn, President, Leduc; W. Hirsborn, Secretary, Leduc.

Glen Park, No. 200 — Algot Dahlbeck, President, Glen Park; Leo. Podgurney, Secretary, Glen Park.

Calmar, No. 203—Mike Osadchuk, President, Calmar; Max Fitzwich, Secretary, Calmar.

Centre Lodge, No. 204—Fjal Johnson, President, Thorsby; C. K. Cieslinski, Secretary, Thorsby.

Weisenthal, No. 206 — Robt. Arnholtz, President, Millet; Walter Meyers, Secretary, R. R. 1, Millet.

Telford, No. 207 — Jos. Spencer, President, R. R. 2, Millet; J. Deans, Secretary, R. R. 2 Millet.

Rolly View, No. 208 — L. Molzan, President, Box 68 Leduc; J. Wedman, Secretary, Rolly View P. O.

Mr. Shandro has also organized other locals the particulars of which have not yet come in to the head office. Apparently the heat wave did not succeed in getting Mr. Shandro down.

We are also glad to announce the formation of a local at Codeda with 11 members. Mr. H. N. Bihun is the president, and Mr. Peter Noga, the Secretary.

### Sub-Director, Milsap, Forms New Locals

Mr. Arnold Milsap, the sub-director for the west zone of the Willingdon constituency is also active. A report has come in from a local formed at Grimsby. The President is Mr. Ted Rinas and the Secretary is Mr. Albert Schmidt, Bruderheim.

Mr. Milsap has also formed a local at Limestone, the particulars of which have not yet come in and he will be holding a meeting at Skaro on Saturday night, August 2. We hope there will be a good attendance and lots of new members signed up. There is nothing like a good sign up to encourage an organizer and there are times when they need lots of encouragement.

### From Pitchforks to Typewriter

Taken altogether there is lots to keep us busy these days at head office. As you can probably tell by the look of the letters you receive, we are not very expert on the typewriter yet. Well, after thirty-five years on the farm we must confess that the feel of the pitchfork and the lines is a little more familiar than the keys of a typewriter, although I did punch a typewriter before I came to Canada to make my fortune. As things stand now I have a better chance of making a fortune out of the typewriter than out of the farm; but here's hoping that through the combined efforts of us all, the better times will soon be coming to the farmer.

### NEW MEMBERS ADDED

We are also pleased to announce that we have three more new members at large. They are C. M. Hale of Thorsby, and Mr. Chas. A. Johnson and Mrs. Brita Johnson of Ranfurly.

There have also been an in-

crease in membership from the following points: Meeting Creek No. 193, 4 new members; Spirit River, No. 194, 6 members; Irma, No. 154, 1 member; Rat Lake, No. 118, 2 members; Viking, No. 80, 1 member; Gratz, No. 85, 2 members; Spirit River No. 194, again 4 members; Lorine Dale, No. 31, 1 member; Inland No. 90, 3 members; Bentley Lake, No. 112, 2 members; Lessard, No. 119, 1 member; Longridge, No. 95, 5 members; King George, No. 60, 4 members; Eroll, No. 195, 5 members; Debolt, No. 167, 6 members; St. Michael, No. 61, 9 members; Lessard, No. 119, again 1 member; Linaria, No. 201, 4 members.

## In Union There Is Strength

I think that most of us recognise by now that the main object of a Farmers Union is to direct all our co-operative efforts through one channel so as to make the more effective and be a Union in reality as well as in name. In this way we hope to get a large body of farmer opinion bringing pressure to bare on those who are supposed to be our representatives at Ottawa in order to get them to realise that when any action is proposed that is going to affect the economic welfare of the farmer, that the farmer should be consulted before any action is taken, and not simply told that a certain thing has been done after it is done.

In Union there is Strength. We believe the time has come to put Union Principles into effect and if we do not make the effort of our lives now, we have only ourselves to blame. As the great poet Shakespeare said, "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune", and we believe that we have arrived at the time of the flood tide.

## Winning the Peace

It is quite a popular saying at the present time that "After the War is Over" a different condition of affairs must be brought into existence than that which we now suffer. All of which may be true but wishful thinking of itself will never bring about the change.

Every good farmer knows that in order to have a good field NEXT year he must prepare for it THIS year. And it is while the WAR is on that we must prepare to WIN the PEACE.

When we view the stupendous amount of production that is possible while the war is on, even with many thousands of our best men taken out of the ranks of production and with many even yet unemployed, the almost over-whelming possibilities of what could be accomplished in times of PEACE if we directed our energies in that direction, strikes us, with terrific impact. However, to have a vision of these things is one matter; but to know how to bring them about, quite another. These are problems for us farmers to think on when the supper is cleared away and we have a little leisure, and also at our group meetings. We farmers are peculiarly trained to deal with this problem. Did you ever think that though the farmer is (in carrying out his daily work) constantly at war with all interfering elements, yet he is also always at peace, that is his occupation is also an essentially peaceful one.

Well then, we want to carry this principle of being at war with all uncongenial and degrading elements into our peace time activities and wage constant war against them instead of against each other. So let us organize ourselves. Do not even wait for an organizer to come because you can do it just as well or better for yourselves. Besides, organizers have to be paid and

they are farmers the same as yourselves with chores to do at home and no more money to spare than you have. Besides if this Union is going to grow and become great, every one of its members must be determined to do his or her best to build it up at every opportunity without waiting for outside help.

A strong chain is made up of strong links and if every farmer and farmer's wife together with the big boys and girls who feel that we have a righteous cause, join together in the endeavour to make a go of it, we shall succeed. "Tis not in mortals to command success; but we'll do more,—deserve it". And we intend, in this organization, if we get strong enough in membership, to go ahead with our attempts at improving the farmer's condition until he is on an economic "Par" with every other trade and industry having access to all those public utilities and conveniences which residents in the towns and cities have and enjoy, and — at the same price.

## Co-operation the Life of Progress

Two heads are better than one, and by the same reasoning a dozen heads are better than two. This is sound logic and we know that in the realm of physical things it is a proven fact. For instance, two can easily do a job that might be impossible to one alone, while the old barn-raising Bees gave ample illustration of what could be accomplished by the combined efforts of many. Now the same thing is true in regard to our mental problems. Have you ever experienced the occasion when perhaps you were in a difficulty with a piece of machinery that had gone wrong, or perhaps something had happened to the tractor and you didn't just see how you were going to get things going right. You were

admittedly capable and had lots of experience but on this occasion you were STUCK. When along comes somebody else bringing a fresh brain to bear on the problems and says, "Why don't you try this or that", and presto as soon as he spoke you knew it was the right way. He was no smarter than you but merely approached it from a different angle. This is the principle we should have injected into our group meetings. In discussing our problems try and welcome full discussion. Sometimes a valuable suggestion comes from an unsuspected source and then it is up to the rest of the meeting to lick that idea into shape so that it offers a definite progressive step towards a general scheme for improving the farmers position. In our opinion the constructive and practical ideas can only come from those whose entire life is spent on the farm. They know what it is they want better than anyone else.

Therefore get together at your group meetings and don't be afraid to speak of the ideas you have, of the visions you see, in order to make things better. Remember! "Where there is no Vision the people perish". And it is largely because at the present time our rulers seem to have no vision that we are, as the coloured man expressed it, "In the all-fired mess, we all are in".

Let us be thankful for neighbors. Without them we would never know where our tools are.

Business Man: "I am afraid we have nothing open just now. May I ask you why you left your last place of employment?"

Fair Applicant: "Why—er, ah, to be perfectly frank, it was because I was caught kissing my employer."

Business Man: "Ah, so that was it. And when do you think you could start working here?"

# THE NORTHERN ALBERTA DAIRY POOL

## ~~~~~ The Cream Producers' Co-Operative ~~~~~

### Purpose

The purpose of the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool is to provide the cream producers of Northern Alberta with ownership and control of their manufacturing and marketing facilities on a co-operative basis.

### Membership

Membership is open to all dairy producers and is acquired by signing a membership agreement. A nominal membership fee is deducted from the first issue of Reserve Share Certificates.

### Ownership

The N. A. D. P. is a purely co-operative organization and ownership of the facilities of the organization is vested entirely in the hands of shipping members. No shares of stock are sold. The producer earns his interest in the organization through his butterfat shipments.

### Democratic Control

The organization operates democratically — the majority of the members rule. The territory served by the organization is divided into five large districts and they in turn into smaller sub-districts. Members in each sub-district select one of their number to act as their voting representative at the annual meeting of the organization. Any five members may nominate a delegate and the final choice is made by ballot with each member having one vote. The delegates in annual meeting review the reports of the various departments of the organization, discuss policies and from among their number elect the board of directors. Each director serves a term of two years. The board of directors is responsible for carrying out the policies set by the delegates and for engag-

ing the general manager. The general manager is responsible for the detailed operations of the business and for the general administration.

### Distribution of Earnings

Earnings of the organization are divided at the end of each year in the form of a final payment. This payment is made on the basis of butterfat shipped during the year, and is in two parts. A cash payment and a Reserve Share Certificate are issued. The Reserve Share Certificate represents the interest the producer has earned in the reserves and undistributable assets of the organization for the year. They are the only form of capital stock outstanding. These certificates operate on the revolving plan and are redeemable when called in by the Board of Directors.

Under this plan of operation, producers own and control their manufacturing and marketing facilities and they alone receive the profits from these operations.

### Operation

The organization began operation in 1928 without assets of any kind except the pledged word of a few hundred cream producers. The capital required to start was borrowed from the bank under a guarantee of the Co-operative Association Act.

Since 1928, the organization has grown until today it is playing an important part in the Dairy Industry of the Province. Today, besides the main plant in Edmonton, branch creamery plants are operated at Wetaskiwin, Sedgewick, Andrew and Edgerton and a cheese plant at Thorsby. A marketing office is also operated in the city of Vancouver. All these plants are modern and up to date in every respect.

The daily market price is paid for cream and in addition to this since 1928 \$589,620.00 in final payments have been made to the producers shipping to the organization.

Over 10,000 cream producers are today using the facilities of the organization.

The general manager, since the inception of the organization, has been Mr. C. E. Christensen. High sound and efficient management backed by his wealth of experience in the co-operative and dairy fields has played an important part in the progress of the organization.

The organization hopes in keeping with constant development to extend manufacturing and sales services on a co-operative basis and to place such services within reach of all co-operatively minded producers in Northern Alberta.

### Why You Should Become A Member

It is only through membership that you can share in the ownership and control of your creamery facilities.

From each pound of butterfat that you ship you contribute towards the operation and maintenance of a creamery, and you make it possible for someone to reap a profit on your produce. Unless you ship to a co-operative you are building for some private individual and all is lost to you.

You can only receive fullest possible returns when you share in the ownership of the facilities through which you market your cream. The Dairy Pool returns all the sales proceeds of your products to you less operating costs.

Co-operative marketing offers the only possibility the producer has for increasing his purchasing power and raising his standard of living.



## Edmonton District Co-operative Livestock, Limited

For years the farmers have been organizing co-operatives,— and successful ones too — but now the time seems to have come when all these different co-operatives can get together and work unitedly for the Economic Emancipation of the farmer.

A long series of efforts by individuals and co-operative groups interested in the establishment of a producer owned and controlled livestock marketing agency culminated in the first general meeting of the Alberta Livestock Co-operative Ltd., in Edmonton on July 22nd.

The Alberta Livestock Co-operative Ltd., is a central selling agency owned and controlled by local co-operative assembling associations who have signed the Marketing Contract and appointed delegates from their Associations. The provisional board of this organization has been in operation since February 1st of this year and has succeeded in co-ordinating the marketing of a considerable volume of livestock to the advantage of the producer. It should be made clear that the success in the organization of the Alberta Livestock Co-operative to-date, has been primarily due to the interest and support of the primary farm organizations, the U.F.C., the U.F.A. and the Agricultural improvement associations in their various communities. The anchor which will stabilize this new farmer's co-operative as it launches out on its three-fold task of (1) **Developing Producer Bargaining power.** (2) **Eliminating waste and expenses in the mechanics of livestock marketing and,** (3) **Conducting research and educational work in the matter of production and marketing,** will be the assured support of the United Grain Growers Ltd., the Alberta Wheat Pool Ltd., and the U.F.A., Central Co-operative Ass-

ociation Ltd., three major farm business organizations now operating on a successful basis. These organizations together with the experience gained by producers in directing farm co-operative business, will be a tower of strength to the new co-operative venture. We cannot justly expect miracles from this new marketing organization. It is a co-operative livestock selling agency whose principles must be honest dealing and the maximum returns to the producer. If you use this organization you have a right to a voice in its control. Its success in building equitable bargaining power for you, will depend upon the extent to which you and your neighbours support it with your business.

The response of the farmers who are co-operatively inclined in the shipping of their livestock, and who are patronizing the Co-op selling agency, — now the Alberta Livestock Co-operative Ltd., and formerly the Claude Campbell Commission Co. Ltd., is very encouraging, as for the past four months or since the set-up of the Edmonton District Co-op and the Alberta Livestock Co-op, the increase of livestock handled for April, May, June and July 1941, as compared with the same period for 1940 is approximately 7% on Cattle and Calves and 113.5% on hogs; which shows that the farmers are beginning to realize the necessity of owning and controlling, also supporting their own selling agency which can, through volume, cut down expenses and obtain more money for the producers of livestock, besides eliminating price spreads and fluctuating markets. And volume control is the only way this can be done. By spreading the volume of hogs, especially, as evenly over the whole week as possible, so that the packers can give us better killing service, and we

can get returns back to the producer much quicker, and prompt and efficient service, will be appreciated and help build the organization on a good solid foundation.

The producer must fully realize the necessity of supporting this organization to get the volume necessary to make the weight of this efforts work, because we must have at least 60% of the hog volume to give us the necessary bargaining power to eliminate fluctuating markets and price spreads.

April.	1940.	1941.	
Cattle	813	1017	25%
Calves	219	202	3.2
Hogs	3418	5459	59.7
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May			
Cattle	789	712	9.8
Calves	187	393	11.0
Hogs	3267	5144	57.5
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June			
Cattle	748	815	9.0
Calves	312	248	20.5
Hogs	1658	4199	153.3
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July			
Cattle	1004	1027	2.3
Calves	438	399	8.9
Hogs	1889	7041	272.7
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The above tables show the percentage of increase or decrease each month for the different kinds of livestock. Below we give a summary for the whole four months and they all show an increase, the hogs outstandingly so.

4 months			
Cattle	3354	3571	6.5
Calves	1156	1242	7.5
Hogs	10232	21843	113.5

If these progressive gains are continued it should not be long before the producer should be in a position to have some influence for good on the price which he obtains for his products.

# Agriculture Needs Strength

Alberta has 100,000 farmers.

They are the main source of new wealth production in this province. They keep the majority of Alberta people employed.

Yet these 100,000 farmers have not the strength and influence to which they are entitled by their number and the importance of their occupation.

This fact is hampering agriculture and will continue to do so until farmers develop a stronger sense of solidarity.

The co-operative movement provides a natural rallying point for farm people.

Strengthen this movement by delivering your grain to

## Alberta Pool Elevators